

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 13 and 21 without prejudice or disclaimer, AMEND claims 12 and 36, and ADD claim 38 in accordance with the following:

1-11. (CANCELLED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A lithium battery comprising:

a generation element which generates electrical power;

a can to house the generation element, the can including first and second surfaces, the first surface including a first terminal electrically connected to the generation element and the second surface including a second terminal electrically connected to the generation element;

an output lead, made of a first material or an alloy thereof, electrically coupled to the second terminal;

~~a safety device electrically coupled to the output lead to interrupt current to the output lead with an increase in a resistance thereof upon a temperature and/or a voltage increase in the can; and a first lead, to electrically coupled to the first terminal, to the safety device, the first lead having including a layer of the first material or an alloy thereof and a cladding layer made of a second material or an alloy thereof; and~~

a safety device, electrically coupled to the output lead and the first lead, including a portion of the first lead, the cladding layer of which being connected to the can, a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) element, adjacent to the portion of the first lead, that interrupts current between the output lead and the first lead upon a temperature and/or a voltage increase in the can, and an extension of the first material or an alloy thereof of the output lead adjacent to the PTC element.

13-14. (CANCELLED)

15. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, further comprising a safety vent which exhausts internal gas when pressure inside the can increases past a predetermined level, the safety vent being at the second surface of the can.

16. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 15, wherein:

the can further comprises an opening through which the generation element is

introduced into the can, and a cap which closes the opening, and the safety vent is disposed on the cap.

17. (ORIGINAL) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the safety device interrupts current flowing therethrough when a voltage of the battery sharply increases.

18-19. (CANCELLED)

20. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 19, wherein the first lead further comprises a third lead plate electrically connecting the protecting circuit and the second terminal.

21-26. (CANCELLED)

27. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the first lead is attached to the first surface using ultrasonic welding.

28. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the first lead is attached to the first surface using resistance welding.

29-34. (CANCELLED)

35. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 12, wherein the first material comprises nickel and the second material comprises aluminum.

36. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The lithium battery of claim 12, further comprising a protection circuit electrically coupled in series between a lead attached to the second terminal and the output lead to prevent over-charging and/or over-discharging.

37. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The lithium battery of claim 35, wherein the protection circuit, the leads, and the safety device are disposed exterior to the can.

38. (NEW) A lithium battery including a generation element to generate electrical

power housed in a can including first and second terminals electrically coupled to the generation element, the battery comprising:

- an output lead, made of a first material or an alloy thereof, electrically coupled to the second terminal;

- a first lead, electrically coupled to the first terminal, including a layer of the first material or an alloy thereof and a cladding layer made of a second material or an alloy thereof; and

- a safety device, electrically coupled to the output lead and the first lead, including a portion of the first lead, the cladding layer of which being connected to the can, a positive temperature coefficient (PTC) element, adjacent to the portion of the first lead, that interrupts current between the output lead and the first lead upon a temperature and/or a voltage increase in the can, and an extension of the first material or an alloy thereof of the output lead adjacent to the PTC element.